

## THE FATHERS BLESSING (2 - 4 mins)

Dear fellow Fathers/ Guardians,

On the Rite of Passage night, you will each have the opportunity, one by one, to call your son into manhood and give him the Father's Blessing. This will be a personal time for you and your son, everyone else will be 15m back around the fire.

In preparation for the Rite of Passage ceremony, I wanted to give you some guidance on what I believe to be essential in the "Fathers Blessing". Whilst we believe all of us were created uniquely and with special gifts and abilities, there are some key things that need to be stated around your personal words:

1. **Confirmation of gender identity** – might sound obvious but there is a lot of confusion out there, so this settles this in their heart.
2. **A release into manhood** – acknowledgment that they are moving from a boy into manhood as a young man.
3. **Calling forth of positive character qualities** – you know the boy better than us. Have a think about the "character" qualities that he has shown and ones that you believe he can own and speak them into his life.
4. **Personal blessing (encouragement/ speak to potential)** – this is totally unique to you. You might want to recall a special memory, or something you see them doing in the future. Just remember the focus is on encouragement, speak to their potential, not necessarily who they are now. No judgement.
5. **Commitment by you to support.** – This is crucial to know they have your love and support. The road ahead will be tough and there will be many opposing this path we are trying to set them on. Reassure them you are proud of them just the way they are and that your support will be there no matter what choices they make in the future. (We believe they will be good choices!) Our boys need to know we are human, I am always apologizing to my children for stuffing up, reassure them "we will work through anything together"

All celebrations have these things in common, whether it be weddings, graduations, awards etc.

1. **Ascribe Value.** They say to the person being honored, "You are important." "This occasion is important."
2. **Employ Symbols.** A ring, a pen, a necklace, a plaque, a certificate all provide recognition of the significance of an event.
3. **Launch a New Season in Life.** They say, in essence, "from this day forward, things are going to be different." And they do it with celebration.